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ISSUE 173, APRIL 2025

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BIN CHARGES

How much do YOU pay?



WASTE DISPOSAL IN CELBRIDGE, LEIXLIP AND MAYNOOTH: HOW MUCH DO YOU PAY?

Waste disposal fees have become an increasingly important topic for residents in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth. Waste management companies have introduced new pricing structures to accommodate sustainability efforts. Whether you're new to the area or looking to update your waste collection service, it's important to understand how much you will pay for these essential services. The cost of waste disposal is based on the size of your household and the amount of waste you generate. Families and larger households may find that flat-rate plans provide better value, while smaller households may benefit from pay-by-weight or pay-by-lift plans.

WASTE DISPOSAL PROVIDERS AND PRICING IN CELBRIDGE, LEIXLIP & MAYNOOTH

BORD NA MÓNA RECYCLING

The most popular offer is **€320.00 per year** which is charged at **€26.67 pm**. The maximum weight for the Waste Bin per quarter is 195kg with excess at **€0.28 per kg**.

There is an option of **weight service charge** which is **€82 service every 6 months** and waste bin charge of **€0.49 per kg**, the recycling bin charge at **€0.27 per kg** and organic bin at **€0.28 per kg**. They also have an option of a glass bin at **€0.18 per kg**.

There is also an option of a **lift charge** which is **€81 every 6 months** and waste bin charge per lift of **€13.50**, a recycling bin charge per lift at **€6.50 per lift** and organic bin at **€7 per lift**. Finally, they have a glass bin at **€4.30 per lift**.

(Editor's note: On year 2 they automatically increase the price to €360. When I went to cancel, a €50 cancellation fee was suggested if though I had no contract with them).

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Greyhound has three options on a monthly payment.

Standard: Which is 1-3 people. **€19.50pm** with maximum waste in your waste bin of 32kg pm.

Family: For 3-5 people is **€23.50pm** with a max weight of 65kg pm.

Family Plus: For 5 plus people **€29.50pm** and a max weight of 95kg pm.

The recycling and organic bin is free.

There is also a **Pay By Weight Scheme: Service charge/week €3.75 Black bin €0.50 per kg, Brown bin €0.38 per kg, Green bin €0.25 per kg**.

There is also a **Pay By Lift: Service charge year €59.95, Black bin lift €4.50 per lift, €0.25 per kilo, Brown bin lift €4 per lift, €0.10 per kilo, Green bin lift €4.50 per lift, €0.02 per kilo**.

THORNTONS

Thorntons have options similar to Greyhound Waste Collection.

ECO Band Lite: This is for 1-3 people. This is **€23.99pm** and has a general waste bin lift based on the weight of up to 25kg pm.

Eco Band: This is suitable for 4+ person households and is **€28.99 pm**. Price per general waste bin lift based on the weight of up to 40kg pm.

Eco Band Pro: This is for 6 plus people and costs **€32.99 pm**. Price per general waste bin lift based on the weight of up to 65kg pm.

ALLIED WASTE

Eco Plan: €17.50 Waste Allowance 150kg per 6 months. No Excess on Recycling (Fair usage applies). Compost Allowance 150kg per 6 months

Kildare Super Saver: €19.17 pm

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Kildare Standard: €25 pm

Waste Allowance 325kg per six months (**€0.25 per kilo thereafter**). No Excess on Recycling. (Fair usage applies). Compost Allowance 250kg per six months (**€0.20 per kilo thereafter**).

Kildare Saver €22.50 pm

Waste Allowance 220kg per 6 month (**€0.25 per kilo thereafter**).

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YOUR APRIL GARDEN

Preparation

Grass should be growing strongly now, so make sure you mow regularly. While you're mowing take note of any bare patches, moss invasion and weeds and deal with any problems you see. April is the ideal time to feed the grass for a lush, healthy lawn. Also make sure you remove any rocks, sticks and other debris from your lawn to prevent you from damaging your lawnmower, or even injuring yourself while mowing. Check your lawnmower and other garden equipment in preparation for the spring and summer months ahead.

If you would like to add some instant colour to your patio and garden then opt for some ready filled pots, or plant up your own. A good idea is to add a controlled release fertiliser and water-retaining gel to the compost to make feeding and water easy. Don't restrict yourself to only buying plants in bloom. Some plants, such as petunias, can be set back after planting and may take a little longer to bloom. Plants without blossoms will actually bloom sooner and may even grow better as well.

Hanging baskets also add instant colour, but it's a little too early to put out your summer hanging basket in early April. This shouldn't stop you from planting them up now though. You'll just need to keep them inside where they'll get good light and protection from any frost. By planting them now you'll have a full basket ready to burst into colour for the summer.

Prick out seedlings of tender bedding plants and pot up young plug plants and cuttings this month so that they can grow into sturdy plants ready to be planted out once the fear of frosts has passed. Always use fresh potting compost for this and make sure that seed trays, pots and cell trays are thoroughly cleaned. Plants will need to be hardened before being planted out, they can be protected from cold, wind and frosts with some horticultural fleece.



To Do List

This month give all your outdoor plants the best start by making sure you feed them now. Sprinkle some fertiliser around the root area and work it into the top inch of the soil. If the soil is dry, water in the feed to prevent it burning the roots. Again, controlled release fertilisers are the easiest way to feed and forget, as they release their nutrients whenever the soil is warm enough for plant growth, and will feed the plants for the whole year.

To keep weeds at bay and maintain a moist soil during the summer apply a two or three inches thick layer of mulch, such as composted bark or bark chippings. This will also insulate the soil and prevent it from getting too cold or too hot for good plant growth. If weeds are a big problem in your garden then it may be necessary to tackle them with weedkiller first.

Cut the flowers and seed heads from spring-flowering bulbs as they begin to fade. Do not cut the foliage until it dies naturally; the leaves are important for producing strong bulbs capable of reflowering. In fact feeding the plants after flowering with a soluble plant food

applied over the foliage and around the roots will ensure a superb display next year. You can also prune spring blooming shrubs such as forsythia and spirea after they have completed flowering.

Sowing and Planting

Brighten up your garden now with so many plants to choose from. Watch it come to life with bergenias, camellias, chaenomeles, flowering currants, heathers, hellebores and primulas. To extend the blooming period of gladiolus, plant early, middle and late season selections each week until June. Choose a sunny location and plant four to six inches deep and six to eight inches apart. Hardy annuals can be sown outside now where you want them to flower. You can sow a selection of annual climbers but keep them indoors for now.

To ensure tasty, early vegetables this year, buy your growing-bags now and put them in the shed, garage or greenhouse so that the compost can warm up ready for planting up later. You can put young tomato, pepper, cucumber and other plants into growing bags, or about nine inch pots of compost, as soon as they're big enough to transplant. Don't forget that these plants will require suitable support while they are growing.

For a riot of colour this summer you can't beat summer-flowering bulbs. Lilies are especially good for bringing colour and scent to the garden. They can even be planted in containers on the patio. Then cover the surface of compost with bedding plants for extra summer colour.

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IRELAND'S POPULATION. THE RISE AND FALL AND RISE AGAIN.

In 1790 the population of the whole island of Ireland was approx. 4 million people. On the eve of the great famine, it stood at over 8 million. That is double the population in 50 years! Are we on the same trajectory with Ireland 2025 and beyond?

The lowest population we have had in hundreds of years was in the early 1960s when our population hit a low of 2.82 million people. Up to that point Ireland's population had decreased every year since the great famine of 1845. We now have over 5.3 million people in the Republic of Ireland. Close to double in a couple of generations. In the last 23 years our population has increased by approx. 36%.

And we wonder why there are not enough houses? With the seemingly economic success of our country there are huge pitfalls. Emigration of our youth is on the rise as many cannot rent or purchase an affordable home. As government targets prove unachievable, it seems one of the big ideas is for these young people to live in structures in their parents back garden.

However, immigration is on the increase with tens of thousands of immigrants arriving in Ireland looking for work alongside economic refugees and asylum seekers. Being members of the European Union we have free travel between our 27 member states and of course we have free movement with the UK which has been in place since the foundation of the state in 1922. Historically, Irish people have always emigrated a lot more than the British have immigrated here but this has changed recently as more Britons find a home here as their country struggles post-Brexit. This of course is legal now in the Republic of Ireland unlike the illegal immigrants from 1169 to 1922. 😊

A brief summary of the status of our migration in 2024 by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is as follows:

- The population in Ireland rose by 98,700 people which was the largest 12-month increase since 2008.
- There were 149,200 immigrants which was a 17-year high. This was the third successive 12-month period where over 100,000 people immigrated to Ireland.
- Of those immigrants, 30,000 were returning Irish citizens, 27,000 were other EU citizens, and 5,400 were UK citizens. The remaining 86,800 immigrants were citizens of other countries.
- Over 69,000 people departed the State in the 12 months to April 2024, compared with 64,000 in the same period of 2023. This is the highest emigration figure since 2015.
- There was a natural increase of 19,400 people in the State comprised of 54,200 births and 34,800 deaths.

So, we have the highest emigration in 10 years and the highest immigration of non-Irish/UK/EU since the early 2000's

It was projected back in 2013 that Rep. of Ireland's population would hit 6.5 million by 2060. If we continue at this rate we shall achieve that number in just over a decade.

Ireland's population has 15.5% who are citizens of other countries but nearly 22% are not born in Ireland. Ireland in 2024 gave citizenship to over 30,000 people. This is a record high and included people from over 140 countries. The top 10 nationalities of these applicants were:

INDIA: 1,147
UNITED KINGDOM: 636
BRAZIL: 609
ROMANIA: 494
POLAND: 417
NIGERIA: 353
PHILIPPINES: 315
SOUTH AFRICA: 246
CHINA (INC HONG KONG): 241
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: 191



Whatever you feel about immigration to Ireland, with so many nationalities coming to Ireland it is vital that integration works. Looking at our two closest neighbours, the UK and France seem to have got many aspects of integration wrong and many people although born in those countries don't feel part of the community. Our countries history of emigration to the UK resulted in many of our people feeling excluded from their new communities. Liverpool is a prime example with 50% of that city having some Irish heritage. With many scousers feeling "othered" it is common for a Liverpoolians to call themselves scouse and not English. The English national anthem is booed by many (not all) Liverpool people at sporting occasions too. Do we want that with some of the immigrants to our shore? I hope not.

A recent Red C poll 75% of Irish people stated we are taking in too many immigrants. There are factors that are inside and outside our control.

We voted to be part of a union with 27 other countries and the UK so that we can come and go as we please. This is non-negotiable and for the most part as most people are happy with this. However, questions should be asked about whether citizens who commit serious crimes should be allowed to wander around the EU. I look at some of the Irish criminals in southern Spain and wonder how they are allowed just move around as they please.

Seemingly, we also have an obligation to accept asylum seekers who arrive in Ireland as per 1951 Refugee Convention. This is reserving impunity for illegal travel to refugees coming directly from a state of persecution.

That leaves us with what we can control which is the situation regarding economic refugees who arrive in Ireland. There are ways to apply from outside the country if you are looking for work. If you come to our shores this country needs to enforce the rules a little better than it has done in recent years.

Times are a changing. Mr. Trump has put the cat amongst the pigeons and our economy could take a serious hit very soon. Over a billion euro was spent last year on international protection applicants, a 54% increase from 2023. Sometimes, we need to pause and reflect.

WHAT IS VEHICLE-TO-LOAD (V2L) TECHNOLOGY?

Article by Breda Corrigan

Electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers continue to develop more innovations in technology and one such innovation is Vehicle-To-Load (V2L) – a feature that allows EVs to act as a mobile power source, supplying electricity to external devices and appliances. V2L is becoming a popular and practical feature that can even save owners money and benefit the national grid.

At its core, V2L enables an EV to discharge electricity from its battery via an onboard inverter and dedicated outlets. This turns the vehicle into a portable power bank, capable of supporting everything from charging small electronic gadgets to powering household appliances, or even running power tools on a worksite. The benefits of V2L become particularly evident in scenarios where access to the grid is limited or unavailable. Camping trips, for example, are transformed when your car can keep the lights on, cook meals, or charge devices, removing the need for bulky and noisy generators. In a similar fashion, outdoor events, pop-up stalls, or markets can run entirely off the car's battery.

From a technical perspective, V2L works by reversing the traditional flow of electricity. Instead of solely charging the vehicle's battery, power is sent outward via an inverter. Depending on the model, V2L can operate through a standard domestic-style plug in the cabin or through

a specialised adapter connected to the vehicle's charging port. The user simply plugs in the appliance or device and the system regulates the power output to ensure safety and efficiency. However, heavy usage will inevitably impact the car's driving range, so it does require careful planning on longer journeys. Drivers need to strike a balance between powering external devices and reserving enough charge to reach their destination or the next charging point.

EVs are no longer just cars, they are multi-functional tools capable of adapting to a variety of needs. For the eco-conscious driver, V2L reinforces the value of investing in an electric vehicle by offering practical solutions that extend well beyond driving. Not all EVs come equipped with V2L as standard, although this is expected to change as the technology becomes more mainstream.



Until next time. drive safely!



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When Your Local Vet Isn't Local Anymore:

The Impact of Corporate Involvement in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth

For many pet owners in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth, the local vet has always been a trusted companion in caring for our furry friends. A place where the familiar faces know your pet by name and where personal relationships with staff ensure the best possible care. But lately, many are noticing a shift: local veterinary clinics are being bought out by corporate chains and the experience that once felt personal is becoming a distant, corporate transaction. So, what does this change mean for the pet owners in our community?

THE RISE OF CORPORATE VETERINARY CLINICS

Corporate ownership in the veterinary world is on the rise and Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth are no exceptions. National and international veterinary chains are increasingly making their mark, offering sleek facilities, standardised practices and often a more consistent approach to care. On the surface, this might seem like an improvement.

But for many local pet owners, the warmth and personal connection that came with a small, independent practice are being replaced by corporate efficiency. The vet who knew your dog's quirks, or the technician who was familiar with your cat's history, may now be just another staff member in a larger system. This shift can feel impersonal and leave a void that many are struggling to fill.

THE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

A major concern for many is that with corporate involvement comes a shift in priorities. Local, independent veterinary practices are often motivated by a genuine commitment to their community. The owners and staff are embedded in the same community and they're not just treating pets—they're treating the neighbours they see at the local shop or the school gates.

Corporate vet clinics, however, are primarily driven by business models focused on profit, scalability and operational efficiency. It can also lead to a decrease in the personal touch that made the local vet a beloved part of the community. In the quest for expansion and growth, smaller, family-run practices are sometimes pushed aside, leaving owners with fewer options to choose from.

SO, WHAT CAN PET OWNERS DO? WHO ARE THESE CORPORATES?

- Some are Irish-owned but the majority are multinational corporations. IVC Evidensia is the largest owner of vet practices in Europe, yet in Ireland trades under the original names of the practices that they bought.
- Another is Mars Inc - yes, the Mars bar company! They actually own more vet practices throughout the world than anyone else, and have just opened their third vet practice in our community of Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth. One of these businesses is essentially three practices: a GP practice, a referral practice and an Out of Hours practice, operating from the same premises.
- Sometimes, Mars may choose to keep the original practice name and some clients may be unaware of the changeover.

SUPPORT LOCAL ALTERNATIVES

If you're not ready to embrace the corporate shift, look for nearby independent vets who are still thriving in the area. These are the 3 remaining in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth that I am aware of.

- **Riverforest Vets, Leixlip**
(Steve Hallahan, MVB, MRCVS)
- **Leixlip Veterinary Hospital**
(Teresa O'Driscoll, MVB MRCVS)
- **Celbridge Veterinary Hospital**
(Robert Frayne, MVB MRCVS)



ADVOCATE FOR YOUR PET'S NEEDS

If you're unhappy with the changes, don't be afraid to speak up. Advocate for your pet's well-being and communicate your concerns about the shift towards corporate practices.

LOOKING FORWARD

The presence of corporate veterinary chains in Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth is a reflection of a larger trend across many industries: the shift from local, family-owned businesses to more commercial, streamlined operations. While this can bring some advantages, it's also important to recognize what we stand to lose. The sense of community, trust and connection we've come to cherish in our local vet practices is invaluable and it's something we must work to preserve. Like many big businesses, once they squeeze out the competition, it is quite possible that the price increases.

As pet owners, we can choose how we navigate this new reality. We can seek out practices that still embody the care and compassion we expect, whether corporate or independent and make sure that the well-being of our beloved pets remains the top priority.

In the end, the love and care we give our pets should never be a business transaction - it's a relationship that deserves to be nurtured, no matter where the clinic is located.

KEEPING YOUR PET SAFE AT EASTER

This article is supplied by the veterinary team at the Riverforest Veterinary Centre in Leixlip. At Riverforest Vets, our mission is to provide the best possible veterinary care for our patients and the best possible service to our clients. Call us on (01) 4430890

CHOCOLATE

Most Easter treats are made from chocolate, which contains theobromine, a chemical that can be poisonous to cats, dogs and rabbits. Dark chocolate and cooking chocolates have the highest levels of theobromine, although it's also present in milk chocolate. Depending on the size of the pet and the amount of chocolate eaten, the effects can vary from vomiting and diarrhoea to seizures, internal bleeding and even heart attacks.

What to do if you suspect your pet has eaten chocolate:

If you think your pet has eaten chocolate, even a small amount, call your vet immediately so that they can advise you over the phone. Ideally, they should be seen within the hour. Don't try to make your dog sick, as this can be dangerous.

How to prevent your pet from eating chocolate:

Many pets, particularly dogs, will try their best to get to any chocolate lying around, so remember to keep it out of paw's reach. This is particularly true of puppies; they will pretty much eat anything they can get hold of. Young children may be unaware of the dangers of chocolate to pets and will often try and share their treats without you realising. Take the time to teach them that chocolate can make their beloved pet ill and remind them never to feed it to them.

Throw a pet-friendly Easter egg hunt:

If you plan to do a chocolate Easter egg hunt, count the number of treats hidden and ensure the hunters get the same number back, to avoid leaving any behind for your pet to find later. Keep your pet well out of the way during the hunt to prevent them finding the eggs first.

OTHER EASTER TREATS YOUR DOG OR CAT SHOULD AVOID:

HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot cross buns are another springtime treat that can be potentially harmful to animals. Raisins, sultanas and currants are all toxic to pets, causing vomiting, diarrhoea and, in some cases, kidney failure. Make sure you keep your pets away from them.

BE WARY OF SPRING BULBS AND FLOWERS

Some common bulbs and their flowers are highly toxic to pets, such as daffodils, narcissus, tulips, hyacinths, bluebells and lilies. Fortunately, serious cases of poisoning caused by dogs eating toxic bulbs or plants are rare, but it's always best to keep an eye on your dog when they're out in the garden or woodland and if they are showing signs of being unwell, contact your vet immediately.



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